

SUBJECT: U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT WITH PRINCIPALS NAMED IN THE ORLANDO LETELIER CASE

1. IN A DEPARTURE FROM THE TRADITIONAL 'NO COMMENT' POLICY OF CIA WITH RESPECT TO OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS, THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE TODAY AUTHORIZED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES FOR POSSIBLE USE BY AMBASSADOR LANDAU, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND CIA CONCERNING ANTICIPATED ALLEGATIONS OF AGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN THE ORLANDO LETELIER CASE.

2. THAT MICHAEL VERNON TOWNLEY IS NOW OR WAS AFFILIATED WITH THE CIA:

CIA OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS: TOWNLEY, OF HIS OWN VOLITION, INITIATED CONTACT WITH THE AGENCY IN 1971 AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AN ASSOCIATION WITH US. WE DID NOT REACH AN AGREEMENT AND HE HAS NEVER BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE AGENCY IN ANY MANNER.

AMBASSADOR LANDAU: I LOOKED INTO THIS ASPECT EARLY IN THE INVESTIGATION AND BASED ON MY CONSULTATIONS WITH AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS, I AM SATISFIED THAT TOWNLEY HAS NEVER HAD ANY AFFILIATION WITH THE CIA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE: WE HAVE EXAMINED THE ALLEGATION PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM AMBASSADOR LANDAU, AND WE ARE SATISFIED THAT TOWNLEY WAS NEVER AFFILIATED WITH CIA.

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